

The Hong Kong Daily Press.

No. 571

一九七九年

十一月廿一號

HONGKONG, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD, 1885.

一九七

三十二月十一號

[Price \$2 per month]

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.
November 20, CRUDELL, British steamer, 647,
Rowin, Haiphong 15th November, General
—A. R. MARTY.
November 21, KWANG-LEU Chinese str., 1,507,
Andrew, Whampoa 21st November, General
—C. M. S. N. CO.
November 21, ZAFIRO, British steamer, 675,
R. M. Talbot, Manila 15th November, General
—RUSSELL & CO.
November 21, CELESTE, Dutch steamer, 1,423,
T. Groot de Blas, Batavia 1st November, General
—JARDINE, MATHERON & CO.
November 21, KEPFER, German bark, 758,
Oetken, Newcastle, N.S.W. 9th October,
Coals, &c.—SIEMSEN & CO.
November 21, J. B. NEWCOMB, British bark,
890, Shanghai 16th November, Ballast—
CAPTAIN.
November 21, AMPHITHEA, Austro-Hungarian
str., 2,486 C. Lazzarini, Trieste and Singapore
14th November, General—A. H. LLOYD'S
S. S. CO.

November 21, STRAITS OF GIBRALTAR, British
str., 1,281, John Davis, Swatow 26th Novem
ber, General—RUSSELL & CO.

November 21, ROMULUS, Spanish steamer, 531,
Aldecoa Manila 16th November, Hemp
—DUNN, MILLEY & CO.

November 21, RECHAUD'S STOVES & KETTLES,
AGATE WARE COOKING UTENSILS.

BLACKWARE OF ALL KINDS.

INTIMATIONS.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.
FOR SALE.
STEEL TRAVELLING TRUNKS.
STEEL BERTH BOXES.
NEW BENDERS AND FIRE-IRONS.
BEAVERS DRAWING-ROOM ASH-PANS.
ARTISTIC TILE HEARTHS.
NEW COAL VASES.
DECORATED TOILET SETS.
BEDROOM HOT-WATER CANS.
RECHAUD'S STOVES & KETTLES.
AGATE WARE COOKING UTENSILS.

BLACKWARE OF ALL KINDS.

ALSO.

A NEW SUPPLY OF
TENNIS BATTS.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

Hongkong, 13th November, 1885.

KELLY AND WALSH, LIMITED.

New Designs in Menus and Ball Programmes.

New Season's Menus in the most Fashionable
and Artistic Designs.

Wedding Cards.

English and American Birth-Day Cards.

Memoirs and Brier Root Pipes.

Colonial Boats—Patent Pipe—very cool and
easily cleaned.

Pocket Folding Scissors—Neil Scissors.

Waterson's Antislip Copying Apparatus.

Cambridge Photo-Photograph Frames
in Camel and Castle Cases.

Parkinson's Doctorate Butter-Scotch.

New Welsh Songs and Dance Music.

Kyle's Collection of Scottish Lyrical Gems.

Christmas and New Year Cards—the latest

Novelties just received by Mail.

Photographs—Albums for Cabinets only or
Cabinet and Carte in new designs.

The Old Old Block, 1885.

The Shakespeare Calendars (An Artistic Date

Block with appropriate quotation for every day).

New Stock of Whatman's Drawing paper.

WINSOR AND NEWTON FINE ART PAINTS.

New Oil and Water Colours, Brushes, Vanishes,

Cavars in rolls, Stretched Canvases, Palates,

Palettes Knives, Artist's Pencils, &c., &c.

Jewel Boxes of Water Colours.

KELLY & WALSH, LTD., HONGKONG.

W. BREWER has just opened

A Magnificent Assortment of Hand Painted

Christmas and New Year Cards of entirely

original design.

Yesterdays' English Greeting Cards.

Shakespeare New Year Cards in old style.

Boys' Own Annual; Girls' Own Annual.

Every Girl's Annual and a quantity of New

Illustrated Children's Books.

With the Stress, Waits, by Marials.

Our Last Waltz Song—Molly.

Wise & Mozart's Sonatas, complete.

Wise & Mozart's String Quartets.

Wise & Mozart's Piano Concertos.

Wise & Mozart's Symphonies.

Wise & Mozart's Overtures.

Wise & Mozart's Operas.

A splendid Assortment of Parisian Dolls,

Sleeping, Sleeping-Talking.

The New Cat Head Moon Cards, and a great

variety of new designs in Menus and Ball

Programmes.

A special display of Photographic Albums

Very cheap designs.

A large variety of Inkstands, Pocket Books,

Purses, Ladies' Companions and other use-

ful Goods.

Let's Diaries; Smith's Diaries.

Kate Greenaway's Almanack.

North China Date Blocks.

Hanover Ladies' Toilet Shoes.

General Patent Cut Sheet.

Most Recent Side Boxes.

W. BREWER, Queen's Road,

UNDER HONGKONG HOTEL.

GEOERGE CARTER STENT, Deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given that all Persons

of the Estate of

GEORGE CARTER STENT, deceased in

the Island of Portuguese, the Chinese Is-

land of Tukao, deceased on the 1st day of

September, 1884, and of whose Personal Effects

Letters of Administration on the Will

were granted by Her Britannic Ma-

jesty's Supreme Court for China and Japan, on

the 9th day of November, 1885, to ROBERT

WILLIAM WILSON, of Shanghai.

Thales, British str., for Swatow.

Taikoo, British str., for Swatow.

London, British str., for Shanghai.

Prato, German str., for Whampoa.

Bengal, British str., for Yokohama.

Patagonia, British str., for Singapore.

DEPARTURES.

NOVEMBER 21, SIGNAL, German str., for Hollow

and Pakho.

NOVEMBER 21, AMARITA, British str., for Amoy.

NOVEMBER 21, KILMARNOCK, British steamer, for

Singapore.

NOVEMBER 22, THALES, British str., for Swatow.

NOVEMBER 22, BENGOLO, British steamer, for

Yokohama.

NOVEMBER 22, PATROCULUS, British str., for

London.

NOVEMBER 22, JOHN C. SMITH, Amer. sch., for

New York.

NOVEMBER 22, PHOTOS, German str., for Wham-

poa.

NOVEMBER 22, TAICHOI, British str., for Swe-

tow.

FARESENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Zafiro, str., from Manila—120 Chinese.

Per Crucero, str., from Haiphong—5 Europeans.

Per Celeste, str., from Pataya—1 Annamite.

Per Aphrodite, str., from Trieste—20 Chinese.

Per Gustavus, str., from Sumatra, and 32 Chi-

nese.

Per Romana, str., from Manila—Mr. Joe-

quin Timorets.

Per Titon, str., from London, &c.—Mr. and

Mrs. Moore, and 150 Chinese from Singapore.

Per Amphitrite, str., from Trieste—20 Chinese.

Per Sisyphus, str., from Sumatra, and 32 Chi-

nese.

Per Romana, str., from Manila—Mr. Joe-

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Per Titon, str., from London, &c.—Mr. and

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INTIMATION.

THE LATEST NOVELTIES

IN

XMAS AND NEW YEAR CARDS.

RECEIVED FROM LONDON

TO-DAY.

ARE just in time to be despatched by the next FRENCH MAIL for XMAS or by the next ENGLISH MAIL for NEW YEAR'S DAY at Home by Parcel Post.

A. S. WATSON & CO.
HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 13th November, 1883.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.

Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not entered for a fixed period will be discontinued until countermanded.

Orders for extra copies of the *Daily Press* should be sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication.

After that hour the supply is limited.

Communications on Editorial subjects should be addressed "The Editor," and those on business "The Manager," and not to individuals by name.

Correspondents are requested to forward their names and addresses with communications addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, NOVEMBER 23RD, 1883.

An Imperial Decree of some little interest, though of uneventful brevity, was issued at Peking on the 5th inst. Translated, it runs as follows:—

The repairing of sewerage and waterways in the city of Peking has been neglected for many years, and consequently of late they have become stagnant and stinking. Every day there is a great loss of life from the continual repairing and draining. Let the Minister of the Board of Works carefully investigate and report to Us. Obey this!

It is stated that this Decree was one immediate consequence of the recent visit of the Viceroy of Chihli to the capital. Possibly the wretched and neglected condition of the thoroughfares in Peking struck His Excellency Li HUNO-CHANG more forcibly by comparison with the neat and well kept Bund at Tientsin, or it may have entered his mind to contrast the streets of the metropolis with those of the foreign settlements of Shanghai which he visited not very long ago. Comparisons, Mrs. Paxton writes to us, are "odorous," and certainly this may be accepted as literally true in the case of Peking, which for pungency and variety of odours will outdo the Colognes of Coleridge's day, in which city the poet declared that he counted two and seventy different stenches. It is a mild way of putting it to say that "the repairing of sewerage and waterways in the City of Peking has been neglected for many years"; this work has never been attended to within the memory of living man, if all accounts be true. There was a time, no doubt, when more attention was given to sanitary matters. The Chinese capital was nobly designed and on a grand scale, and was originally well built, the streets being broad and straight and at right angles with each other. It was also, there is reason to believe, kept in fairly good order in former reigns. Mr. JOHN BULL, an English gentleman who accompanied a Russian Embassy to Peking, in 1720-21, thus refers to the streets and public works:—"The Chinese deserve great praise for their patience in finishing, completely, everything they undertake. And, what is still greater recommendation, their labours are not the effect of whim or caprice, but calculated to serve some useful purpose. The publick works, about the city of Peking, are instances of these observations. The streets, in particular, are the best in the world. They are spacious, neat, and straight. The canals which supply the city with water, have, at proper distances, commodious stone bridges over them; and these canals are not only built with free stones on the sides but the bottoms of them are paved with broad cut stones in the neatest manner imaginable." It is perfectly evident that the streets did not then, as now, resemble the beds of water-courses, and the canals were not so choked up as to have been either obliterated or need as sewers. The universal decay of all that was once beautiful or fine looking in the way of architecture is one of the first things that strikes the visitor to Peking. Even the Temple of Heaven and other Imperial buildings, with decided pretensions to splendour of material and beauty of architecture, are all allowed to fall into decay, more or less, and owing to an effect of one of the early Manchu Emperors prohibiting any houses from being pulled down, ruined buildings are to be seen on every hand, adding to the other evidences of neglect and disorder. A traveller, who paid a flying visit to Peking early in the present year, in recording his experiences there, gives the following account of the condition of its streets, which though graphic is not exaggerated:—"The streets are wide, with mud two or three feet in depth in wet weather, changing to strong smelling ammoniacal dust in the dry season; large open sewage-bounding cesspools, and small lakes of green stagnant water abound in all directions. It has been said that 'Peking is paved with the excrement of centaurs.' Of course locomotion in streets so kept is tedious and uncomfortable to the last degree, and sightseeing is attended with drawbacks that render it a doubtful pleasure. The Imperial Decree has not been issued a day too soon. For the credit of the Chinese Government we hope that it will be carried out, and in a more thorough manner than are many edicts in China. A complete cleaning of the Peking streets would probably a work of no little time and difficulty, scarcely less arduous than that of the Auguan stables, but if the Chinese wish to obtain some rank as a civilized people they must carry out a few such immensely needed sanitary reforms."

A Government notification in the *Gazette* of Saturday announces that His Excellency the Governor has given his assent, in the name and on behalf of the Queen, to the Prison Ordinance, 1883.

The Japanese hulk *Meneses* was towed round from Aberdeen to her old moorings on Saturday morning.

A complete supply of fire engines and other materials necessary for coping with fires has been ordered for Manila from Paris.

The Franchisee *Doves* arrived Nagasaki from Shanghai on 10th instant, and left again on the 13th bound to Yokohama direct, via the Inland Seas.

At a meeting of the Victoria Lodge, No. 1029, on Friday night, Hon. A. O'D. Gorham was elected Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. Bro. A. Levy Treasurer, and Bro. J. E. Grimble Tyler.

It is notified in Saturday's *Gazette*, that the Annual Battery practice will commence to-day, and continue from 10 a.m. daily to the end of the year at the battery on the South-east point of Stonecutters Island.

A statement of the receipts and expenditure relative to the Hongkong District Watchmen's Fund for the third quarter of the present year is published in the *Gazette*. The receipts amounted to \$1,223.14, and the expenditure to \$1,190.17, leaving a balance in hand of \$32.97.

On the 8th inst. H.M.S. *Abrahan* returned to Nagasaki Port Hamilton, in which place the *Curzon* and *Curlew* had put on board the *Curlew* had put on board the *Curlew* had returned to Port Hamilton on the 20th and that the *Champion* would arrive at Nagasaki from that place on the following day.

Hon. Sir Francis Well, Governor of the Straits Settlements, returned to Singapore with his wife and family on the 18th inst. in the Ocean Steam Ship Co.'s steamer *Titan*. He was warmly welcomed on landing by the Singapore community, after his absence of twenty months.

A lengthy set of rules and regulations for the use of Victoria Gasol, and for the guidance of its officers, made by the Governor in Executive Council, under Section 6 of Ordinance 10 of 1859 and Section 17 of the Price Ordinance, 1858, on the 13th inst., was published in the *Gazette*, and occupies over seventeen pages of that paper.

We are requested by the Hon. Secretary to acknowledge receipt of the following additional contributions to the Kwangtung Immigration Relief Fund:—

Collected in Hongkong by Mr. Sam Kwan-yi \$20.01
Collected from the Chinese community in Hongkong Dr. Anderson, of France 11.36

\$2,072.51

The certificates obtained by the members of the St. John's Ambulance Class last winter have now been distributed. The Association is recommending its work this season, and as will be seen from an advertisement in another column, ladies desirous of joining the first aid corps are requested to do so at the office of the Hon. Secretary. Early in January a nursing class will be formed for those ladies who passailly start, and arrangements are being made for going through a course of nursing. A class of Dockyard policemen is displayed by Mr. and Mrs. Smith during their occupancy of Government House.

A case illustrating Chinese modes of reasoning which crossed over last week with great severity in the province of Camarines Sur, a province to the South-east of Manila, where the damage done is much greater than was at first supposed at Manila. A correspondent has furnished the *Comercio* with details from which it appears that in nineteen out of the thirty-four districts (including fifteen SOS) especially built houses and 3,544 of canoes and nipa were destroyed, as well as 13 churches, 10 convents, 3 police barracks, 19 court houses, and 18 schools. Nine men and three women lost their lives, and six other persons are missing. There was also considerable destruction of live stock.

A correspondent at Phnom-penh, writing to the *Savignac*, says the state of Cambodia is still anything but satisfactory, and that an attack by the rebels on Phnom-penh is anticipated. On the night of the 12th October the rebels completely destroyed the entrepot at Rokakou and burnt down the Hong Kong, Dangkor, and Battambang, and the 20th the 29th October says:—"The steamer *Arvel* from Hongkong was fumigated and released from quarantine. The remainder of the passengers by the steamer *Ganga* were released from quarantine to-day. Dr. M. Findlay the only smallpox patient, is recovering rapidly."

The public dinner to Mr. C. C. Smith, the late Acting Governor of the Straits, on his transfer to Ceylon, was given at Singapore on the 10th November, and was a most successful and representative affair. The same afternoon the fare-well presentation to Mr. Smith was given at the Hall in the presence of a large number of ladies desirous of joining the first aid corps, and the 20th November the *Arvel* sailed for Ceylon. Early in January a nursing class will be formed for those ladies who passailly start, and arrangements are being made for going through a course of nursing. A class of Dockyard policemen is displayed by Mr. and Mrs. Smith during their occupancy of Government House.

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The public dinner to Mr. C. C. Smith, the late Acting Governor of the Straits, on his transfer to Ceylon, was given at Singapore on the 10th November, and was a most successful and representative affair. The same afternoon the fare-well presentation to Mr. Smith was given at the Hall in the presence of a large number of ladies desirous of joining the first aid corps, and the 20th November the *Arvel* sailed for Ceylon. Early in January a nursing class will be formed for those ladies who passailly start, and arrangements are being made for going through a course of nursing. A class of Dockyard policemen is displayed by Mr. and Mrs. Smith during their occupancy of Government House.

A case illustrating Chinese modes of reasoning which crossed over last week with great severity in the province of Camarines Sur,

Mr. Cowperjee went out on Friday morning, locking himself up. Soon after he left a Chinaman in the same house heard a noise in his room, and as he knew there should be no one in there, he went down and found the prisoner overhauling the contents of a box in Mr. Cowperjee's room. The man made a bolt cut on the verandah, and climbed round into that of the next house, occupied by a woman employed on board the steamer. With the Wizir, who arrested him, the door and box showed marks of having been broken open.

The prisoner had five previous convictions recorded against him, and he was committed to take his trial at the next Criminal Sessions of the Supreme Court.

LACENY.

Chau Alard, carpenter, was sentenced to twenty days hard labour for stealing 25 cents' worth of copper from H. M. S. Macrae, in Martor Dock, on the 20th instant.

LATE TELEGRAMS.

The following telegrams are from Australian papers received by the steamer *Tasmanie*, which arrived here yesterday:

THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY AND THE COLONIES.

Sir Richard Cross, in addressing a Conservative meeting at Manchester, declared that the Conservative party would take measures for the protection of the colonies, which he considered equally as important as other parts of the British Empire.

STATE EMIGRATION.

LONDON, 21st October. The Earl of Kimberley has expressed himself in favour of a scheme of State assisted emigration.

THE FEDERATION QUESTION.

LONDON, 21st October. Sir Charles Dilke, addressing a meeting last night, said that Federation, as it is at present, would probably provoke a disruption of the Empire. He suggested the establishment of a separate army for the defence of India and the colonies, and opposed the proposed Colonial Council of Advice.

LONDON, 22nd October. Colonel Stanley, Secretary of State for the Colonies, is requesting the Indian Government to concede the proposed reduction in the rates on the Indian telegraph lines in order that the reduced rates to Australia, as agreed to by the Berlin Conference, may be adopted.

AUSTRALIA AT THE CONFERENCE.

LONDON, 22nd October. The Colonial Agents-General, including Sir Samuel Samuel, are arranging for the establishment of their own Training School of Cookery, which will have the management of the sixteen dinners, consisting entirely of articles produced in the colonies, which is intended to provide at the forthcoming Indian and Colonial Exhibition.

THE GOLD DISCOVERIES.

SYDNEY, 27th October. A rich discovery of gold has been made at Filibuster Creek, five miles from Armidale. Several prospectors have been obtained at a depth of 30 ft., giving over half an ounce of gold to the dish. The miners are working in blankets and other coverings were laid and taken to the various huts. Assurance was then sent to the vessel and the fire was extinguished by 9 o'clock. It was thought at one time that the vessel would be lost. Inspection was afterwards made, when it was found that the whole of the middle of the vessel, about one-fourth of the length, was completely gutted. The fire was sleeping among the debris, and did not burn again. The vessel was greatly damaged by the water. A large amount of the cargo on board suffered severely, but the amount is not yet known. Many of the passengers lost all their effects. The estimated cost of repairing the vessel is £5,000. Admirable order and discipline was maintained. The fire originated in the linen closet, and is supposed to have been caused by the carelessness of someone.

When discovered the fire had gained a firm hold of the vessel.

THE GOLD DISCOVERIES.

SYDNEY, 27th October. The Earl of Kimberley is vigorously contesting the views advanced by the Radical party in connection with colonial legislation.

THE GOVERNMENT OF TANZANIA.

LONDON, 23rd October. The names of Sir William Denyer, Governor of Fiji, and the Earl of Donoughmore are mentioned in connection with the Governorship of Tasmania, which will shortly become vacant on the expiration of Sir George Strahan's term of office.

TANZANIA ACT IN ENGLAND.

LONDON, 23rd October. The Earl of Rosebery advocates the adoption of the Tanza Act in the system of law transfer in the United Kingdom.

THE NEW GUINEA AFFAIR.

LONDON, 25th October. Lord Randolph Churchill, addressing a Conservative meeting at Birmingham last night, declared that the position of the course of action adopted by the Imperial Government in connection with New Guinea would be left to Australia to decide from the Empire, although Lord Hartington had disputed the right of Australia to complain in the matter.

THE BURMESE QUESTION.

LONDON, 25th October. The Journal des Débats, a prominent Paris newspaper, protests against the annexation of Burma by Great Britain.

THE EGRESS OF BRUNSWICK.

LONDON, 25th October. The Archduke Albrecht of Austria has accepted the regency of the Duke of Brunswick.

THE AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENT.

LONDON, 25th October. A telegram given to General Roberts last night, from the Adjutant-General to the South African Army, stated that the South African Bill had been a source of great trouble to the army, and he indicated that similar action on the part of the colonies might render the greatest possible assistance to the Empire in some future emergency.

MARSELLES & CIE, LTD.

LONDON, 26th October. Clean hills of death are now being issued to vessels leaving Marseilles, cholera having now disappeared.

DUTCH EXPLORATION OF NEW GUINEA.

LONDON, 26th October. The Dutch Government propose to explore that portion of New Guinea which is under the sovereignty of the King of the Netherlands.

LODGE CARRINGTON'S DEPARTURE FOR NEW SOUTH WALES.

LONDON, 26th October. Lord Carrington, who became Lord Augustus Luttrell as Governor of New South Wales, set out to-day for that colony, my friends being present to witness his departure.

COLONIAL FEES.

LONDON, 27th October. Lord Rosebery is advocating the creation of colonial fees.

HANAN DEFEATED BY PEREIRA.

LONDON, 27th October. In the sculling match between Teeser and Hanan, rowed at Toronto, Teeser proved victorious.

SYDNEY, 28th October.

A cablegram has been received from T. D. Mackay, of California, asking terms for backing Teeser against Teeser. Mackay has been consulted, and a reply to the message called that in the event of Teeser accepting a challenge for £2,000 or £2,500, all his expenses, or if for £2,000, £200 will be allowed.

ELECTION OF KEL.

LONDON, 28th October. Lord Ebel, the leader of the late rebellion in Canada, is to be hanged on the 11th November.

LONDON, 30th October.

An inquiry is being made concerning the safety of the Lord Lyon, who is under sentence of death in connection with the rebellion in Canada.

DEATH OF GENERAL MELCHIOR.

LONDON, 30th October. General George B. Melchior, the distinguished American officer, who was at one time General-in-Chief of the United States Army, is dead.

FRENCH POLITICS.

LONDON, 30th October. The Due de Broglie, the Duke of Orleans, has been defeated in the general election.

It is probable that a new Cabinet will be formed in which M. de Roquigny and M. Flouret will take the leading positions.

The re-election of M. Jules Grévy to the presidency of the French Republic is regarded as certain.

LONDON, 31st October. The French Legislative Chamber will meet on the 10th November.

LONDON, 31st October.

M. Henri Bochofet is demanding the impeachment of M. Ferry, the late French Premier.

PERCIVAL'S WOULD-BE ASSASSIN.

LONDON, 1st November. The Corsican who attempted the assassination of M. De Prayssat has been examined by a medical expert, who pronounced him to be insane.

DEATH OF THE DUKE OF ABERDEEN.

LONDON, 1st November. The death is announced of His Grace James

Hamilton, Duke of Aberdeenshire, in his 75th year.

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

LONDON, 29th October. The British Government has addressed a diplomatic note to Servia and Greece, formally warning them against persisting in their attitude towards Turkey.

LONDON, 29th October.

In reply to the diplomatic note from Great Britain, the Government of Greece has stated that they are anxious for peace, but nevertheless it is necessary for Greece to protect her own interests.

LONDON, 30th October.

The Governments of Great Britain, France, and Italy hesitate about joining the proposed European Conference to settle the Bulgarian question, unless the idea of restoring the status quo ante is abandoned.

LONDON, 30th October.

King Milan of Servia has stated that he will be content with a restoration of the *status quo ante* in Bulgaria and Eastern Thrace. Greece has adopted a less warlike attitude.

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LONDON, 30th October.

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, addressing a Conservative meeting at York last night, stated that the British Government were hopeful that peace would be maintained in Eastern Europe, and the Great Powers would protect Constantinople from foreign aggression.

GERMAN NEW GUINEA.

LONDON, 30th October.

A telegram received at Cooktown from Berlin states that Admiral Neumann will not come out to take charge of the government of German New Guinea.

SAMOA.

LONDON, 30th October.

The Imperial Government has advised by the Royal Government that a British man-of-war will be despatched to Samoa.

THE CHINESE STEAMERS.

LONDON, 30th October.

At four o'clock on Sunday morning when the steamer *Waverley* en route for Sydney was near Gisborne, a fire was discovered on board. There were about a hundred passengers on board. A cry of fire was raised, and the officers hurried to the passengers' cabin and awakened all hands. Upon being warned they fled, and the cabin was full of smoke, and the noise of cracking timber could be heard.

The fire spread to the ladies' cabin, and travelled all the width of the ship, through the hold and upper deck. Meantime the ship's head was turned towards Gisborne, and arrived off there at 6 o'clock, and took in about 100 passengers, who had been landed in blankets and other coverings were landed and taken to the various huts. Assurance was then sent to the vessel and the fire was extinguished by 9 o'clock.

It was thought at one time that the vessel would be lost. Inspection was afterwards made, when it was found that the whole of the middle of the vessel, about one-fourth of the length, was completely gutted. The fire was sleeping among the debris, and did not burn again.

The vessel was greatly damaged by the water. A large amount of the cargo on board suffered severely, but the amount is not yet known. Many of the passengers lost all their effects. The estimated cost of repairing the vessel is £5,000. Admirable order and discipline was maintained. The fire originated in the linen closet, and is supposed to have been caused by the carelessness of someone.

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LONDON, 2

EXTRACT.

(By His First Mother-in-Law.)

His Majesty, Satan, one morning awoke, And found that his wife was dead; He said to himself: "This is really no joke." My household requires a hand;

The defunct, here below, was a marvel of worth;

I must seek her successor above on the earth.

"She must be witty and amiable of tongue,

Shrewd as the shrewdest of men,

A beauty, of course—with me that means young.

Somewhere between twenty and ten;

For I would be loved by myself alone;

And not for my dark Satanic throne!

But far more important than beauty or youth,

Thought, of course, I want them as well,

Are the virtues of innocence, candor and trust;

For though people speak evil of Hell,

There are duties attached to its leading position,

And the wife of its Prince must defy all suspicion."

So the Devil set forth on his conjugal quest

Of a quest for higher aims below;

But he found that he lost his natural rest,

And his progress was terribly slow.

For the woman he wanted was hard to find,

And the eyes of his Kingdom weighed on his mind.

The daughters of England were lovely, he saw,

A nation of fair-haired queens;

But those rosy lips could lay down the law,

And they lived beyond his means.

So he quietly wandered over to France,

And there the Parisians led him a dance.

He really thought for a while he had found

The actual thing that he wanted.

But before he had gone half the Parcours around,

The Devil began to be daunted.

"These ladies are quite beyond me, this is plain,"

He said to himself—and he left for Spain.

But there, though the women were pretty and kind,

Once more he was disappointed;

They had hearts to be won, but he wanted a mind;

And their hair was too much wanted.

So again His Majesty sailed forth

And this time, he thought, he would visit the North.

But why should I tell of his lengthening work

And of all the countries he tried?

Till he at length thought one fine day of New York

And instantly thitherward he bled.

But quick as was the way, the women were ready,

Their heads were clear and their hearts were steady.

They took one look, and they looked him through,

And they saw what he wanted at once.

So innocence beamed from their orbs of blue.

And candor was queen for the nonce.

Oh! you should have seen how their eyelids fall

While they timidly asked for the news from Hell!

The Devil was fatter and surlier and pleased,

What grace, what refinement, what sense!

How quickly his notions, half-baked, were seized,

And nothing he said gave offence!

He thought he had seen then those beauties before,

The better he knew them he liked them more.

But time was passing, he could not wait,

Though he scarcely knew how to choose,

So he offered his crown and his royal state;

Himself and his dead wife's shadow.

To a damsel whose candor and virtues intact

Were all that the Devil himself could exact.

She accepted his offer, and did not repeat

When the day of her wedding drew nigh,

For you know that to Hell there an easy does it

And—her friends would drop in by and by.

While the Devil daubed himself more and more bleak

As the innocent creature he tenderly pressed.

But when she was married and safely installed

As Queen in the regions of shade

It is said that the Devil was somewhat appalled

At the bargain he found he had made.

And remarked, "Would have been, on the whole,

quite as well."

Had I tarried at home and married in Hell!"

—New York World.

LIFE IN PATAGONIA.

When the Boston Question had lost its ancient fascination for me I found a world large enough for my sympathies in the little community of men and women on the Rio Negro. Here for upwards of a century the colony has existed, cut off, as it were, by hundreds of desert leagues from all communion with fellow-Christians, surrounded by a great wilderness, waterless and overgrown with thorns, populated only by pumas, ostriches, and wandering tribes of savage men. It must of necessity have been a case of war to the knife with these white aliens—not only with the wild tribes that cherish an undying feud against the robbers of their inheritance, but also with nature. For when man begins to cultivate the soil, to introduce domestic cattle, and to slay a large number of wild animals than he requires for food—and civilised man must do all that to create the conditions necessary to existence—from that moment does he place himself in antagonism with nature, and has thereafter to suffer countless persecutions at her hands.

After a century of residence in the valley the colonist has established his position so that he cannot be driven out. Twenty-five years ago it was still possible for a great caque to gallop into the town, clattering his silver harness and flourishing his spear, to demand with loud threats of vengence his unpaid annual tribute of cattle, knife-blades, indigo, and cochineal. Now the red man's spirit is broken; in numbers and, of course, he is declining. During the last decade the desert places have been abundantly watered with the blood of the Imperial war-vessel *Itaparica*. No doubt it was soon pulled to pieces, good building material being rather expensive on the Rio Negro; a portion of the wreck, however, still lies in the river, and often, when the tide was low and those old brown timbers hadrowned their brave day's work by the capture of the Imperial war-vessel *Itaparica*. No doubt it was soon pulled to pieces, good building material being rather expensive on the Rio Negro; a portion of the wreck, however, still lies in the river, and often, when the tide was low and those old brown timbers hadrowned their brave day's work by the capture of the Imperial war-vessel *Itaparica*.

The master took a horn with him, and carried a hawk on his fist, while the man-servant had a greyhound, to the use of both of which the rector was entitled all that day if he despaired to go hawkings. On arrival at the parsonage the gentleman blew three blasts on his horn, but the rector knew of his arrival. The rector then gave him a chicken for the hawk, a peck of oats for the horses, and a loaf for the greyhound. All then dined together, and when the master started home he again blew three blasts on his horn. This quaint ceremony has, however, long been in disuse.

OUR AMBASSADORS TO RUSSIA.

At Chalgford, in Epping Forest, there was, some hundreds of years ago, an estate called Bradwood, which had originally belonged to the rector of the parish, and had been given to another person on condition that he and his successors did homage to the rector. Every time the property changed owners, the new proprietor, with his wife, man-servant, and maid-servant, each riding on horseback, had to go to the rectory. The master took a horn with him, and carried a hawk on his fist, while the man-servant had a greyhound, to the use of both of which the rector was entitled all that day if he despaired

to go hawkings. On arrival at the parsonage the gentleman blew three blasts on his horn, but the rector knew of his arrival. The rector then gave him a chicken for the hawk, a peck of oats for the horses, and a loaf for the greyhound. All then dined together, and when the master started home he again blew three blasts on his horn. This quaint ceremony has, however, long been in disuse.

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Hongkong, 2nd July, 1885.

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